

Response of June 17, 2005**U.S. Patent Application 09/857,906
Atty Docket No. QMT1.1-US****REMARKS**

Claims 1 to 8 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 9-21 are newly presented and are submitted to define the invention as disclosed in the application as filed. Applicants' attorney states on information and belief that they do not constitute new matter.

Applicants' appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's courtesy in conducting a telephone interview on June 15, 2005. Gerry Elman, patent attorney, and William Toreki, staff scientist of assignee company, were on the call.

At the telephone interview, a draft of newly presented claims 9-21 was discussed. Applicants' attorney asserted that the references that the Examiner had cited against claims 1-8 do not anticipate or make obvious the subject matter of claims 9-21, and the Examiner expressed agreement.

At the suggestion of the Examiner, the term "enhanced surface area" is expressly recited in the "wherein" clause of claim 9. Basis for the recitation that the antimicrobial polymer is comprised in the "enhanced surface area" appears in the specification at page 1, lines 14-16 and page 5, lines 3-4.

Referring to the clause in claim 9 "so as to render the polymer non-leachable upon exposure to acids or bases produced during bacterial growth" the Examiner asked if the term "non-leachable" appears in the specification. Applicants' attorney acknowledged that the specific word does not appear, but explained that the term "non-leachable" was chosen to express concisely the following concept as taught in the specification:

Consequently, the composition of the present invention results in a structure which is less prone to reacting with acids and bases produced by bacterial growth. As previously mentioned, such reactions can degrade the attachment between the matrix and antimicrobial groups. In instances where the composition is applied to a wound dressing, such degradation could result in antimicrobial agents detaching from the polymer matrix and entering a wound site. [Specification, p. 5, line 29 to p. 6, line 5.]

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner review the present submission and direct any questions to the undersigned attorney. It is believed that the application is in condition for allowance, and prompt Notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted:
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